



Beyond School Bells

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2020 ELO Innovation Network Grants

Beyond School Bells (BSB) is Nebraska's statewide network for afterschool and summer learning programs, what we call Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) programs. We believe that growing access to high quality ELOs across the state can help provide all Nebraska youth with opportunities they need to develop their full potential and can help eliminate the achievement gap. Research supports this claim, showing that regular participation in high quality ELO programs allow low-income students to succeed academically on par with their more affluent peers. ELO programs, characterized by engaged, hands-on learning built on strong school-community partnerships, also help high-performing students stay engaged and achieve greater levels of learning.

Starting in February 2020, Beyond School Bells will be facilitating the launch of the **Nebraska ELO Innovation Network**, to better connect, support and grow Nebraska's ELO community by providing support to new and existing programs and to promote innovative new programming options. Innovation Grant resources are funded through the Nebraska Lottery through the Nebraska Department of Education. The Nebraska ELO Innovation Network will consist of two grant categories:

- (1) **ELO Incubator Grants** are one year grants intended to help jump start new after school and summer programs in underserved communities that, supplemented by local resources, can be locally sustainable. These programs are envisioned providing more youth in greater Nebraska communities with new opportunities for exciting, engaging and inspiring programming during the non-school hours. Grants in this category will also be available to small, existing school-based and community powered afterschool and/or summer programs that are experiencing significant barriers to sustaining their programming. Because of the focus on growing new programs in underserved communities, programs currently receiving 21st CCLC grants are not eligible to apply. Please see **Attachment A** for a full overview and requirements of the ELO Incubator Grants.
- (2) **Centers of ELO Excellence**, these grants support a network of school and community-based sites showcasing and sharing best practices in ELO programming, staffing and partnership development. These grants will support existing ELO sites / communities with new opportunities to further develop and share these best practices. One-year grants to these Centers of Excellence, which can include existing 21st CCLC sites, will be selected to contribute to a portfolio of experiences of different size communities from across the state, are intended to build capacity and enhance all programs' ability to offer regular PD and coaching opportunities showcasing ELO Innovations to statewide audiences. Centers of Excellence grant recipients will be expected to contribute to a statewide tool kit of ELO resources that will be made freely available to all Nebraska communities. Please see **Attachment B** for a full overview and requirements of the Centers of ELO Excellence Grants.

Beyond School Bells will be hosting a zoom webinar on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 10:00 CST to discuss the ELO Incubator and Centers of Excellence grants. Please join us for this webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/840067719> and Meeting ID: 840 067 719. We will also record the webinar and post the link to the recording on our website, www.beyondschoolbells.org.

NOTE: These grants are available only to Nebraska based- 501 c3 non-profit organizations or public school-districts acting as a sponsor of an afterschool program.